



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) *about* **Stone Mill Spring Recreation Area's Fish-For-Fun Trout Fishing Season**

Who can participate in the Fish-For-Fun (FFF) season? Anyone; male or female, young or old.

When can I participate in this program? The FFF season begins November 1, 2006 and runs through February 28, 2007. Anglers may fish from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, seven days a week.

What permits do I need to fish during the FFF season at Stone Mill? Children 15 years of age or younger or adults 65 years of age or older, must have a Missouri trout permit. Those anglers ages of 16 thru 64 will need to have a Missouri trout permit and a Missouri fishing permit. Non-residents in this age group can obtain an annual fishing permit for \$35.00. Residents can buy an annual fishing permit for \$12.00. Both residents and non-residents can purchase a daily fishing permit for \$5.50 and a trout permit for \$7.00.

Is a Fort Leonard Wood Sportsman's Permit required to fish at Stone Mill? No, you only need a Sportsman's permit to fish in the post's ponds and lakes, and the Roubidoux Creek flowing through Fort Leonard Wood.

Where can I get Missouri fishing permits? Missouri fishing permits may be obtained at Fort Leonard Wood's Sportsmen's Center, located in Building 2282 off Sportsmen's Drive northeast of the Directorate of Public Works compound. They are open Sunday through Saturday between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Their phone number is 573-596-4223.

What can I use for bait? Only unscented flies and artificial lures may be used. You cannot use soft plastic, natural, or scented baits and lures.

Why can't I use live or prepared baits? A substantial number of scientific studies from across the country have shown that artificial lures cause significantly less damage to hooked and released trout when compared to trout caught and released using live or prepared baits.

What constitutes a live or prepared bait? Synthetic eggs, synthetic worms, synthetic grubs, soft plastic lures, bait fish, crayfish, frogs, grubs, insects, larvae, worms, salmon eggs, cheese, corn and other food substances, dough bait, putty or paste-type bait, are considered live or prepared bait and can not be used.

What kinds of lures are permitted? Unscented artificial lures and flies. A lure is one constructed of any material excluding soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait. A fly is an artificial lure constructed on a single-point hook, using any material that is tied, glued or otherwise permanently attached, except soft plastic and natural and scented materials.

How many trout can I keep? None, all trout caught must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

Why can't I keep fish? By returning all fish caught, anglers will help ensure good fishing for the entire season. In past FFF season's, some trout were caught more than three times during the four-month season.

Can I fish in the Big Piney River for trout? Yes, however, during the FFF season, you may not possess any fish within the Stone Mill Spring Recreation Area regardless of where they were caught.

When will I be able to start keeping trout again at Stone Mill? Anglers can harvest fish from Stone Mill beginning at 5:00 am on March 1, 2007.

Where can I find or get a copy of the FFF regulations? The regulations will be posted at the parking lot and near the spring. Copies of the regulations are also available at the Sportsmen's Center and Natural Resource Branch office, or you can view them on the Fort Leonard Wood Environmental Division's website at [Http://www.wood.army.mil/DPWENV/Natural%20Resources/NR_HOME.htm](http://www.wood.army.mil/DPWENV/Natural%20Resources/NR_HOME.htm)

Who enforces these regulations? Conservation Agents of the Missouri Department of Conservation will randomly patrol the recreation area and enforce the posted fishing regulations. The anglers may also be interviewed by Fort Leonard Wood Natural Resource Branch staff during the season.

What can I expect to catch? Three hundred rainbow trout averaging about 12 inches will be stocked just prior to the start of the season. This is in addition to the estimated 30 to 90 trout remaining in the spring branch after the end of the regular put-and-take (harvest) season.

How many trout can I expect to catch? In past FFF seasons, the "average" angler caught about three trout per hour; however, some anglers consistently reported catching more than 20 trout per hour.

What are the most popular lures and methods used during the FFF season? Open-face spinning and fly fishing rods and reels are most often used. For those using spinning tackle, it is essential that four-pound test or lighter line be used. Popular spinning lures include small Super Dupperts, Roostertails, Mepps, Rebel Crawdads, and Rapala-type minnow lures. Fly anglers can be successful at times with dry flies; however, most trout are caught on patterns such as Woolly Buggers in olive, brown or black, Prince nymphs, Hare's Ear, Pheasantail and other nymphs in sizes 12-18.

Where is Stone Mill Spring Recreation Area? This popular fishing hole is located on the Mark Twain National Forest just downstream and across the Big Piney River from Fort Leonard Wood's Happy Hollow Picnic Area. It can be reached by following the signs on the road leading past the Piney Valley Golf Course. Anglers should be aware that there is a 0.3-mile walk between the parking lot and the spring.

How big is the spring branch? The branch is about 0.2 miles long, and is from 20 to 50 feet wide, with depths ranging from 3 to 10 feet. The spring's average daily flow is 19 million gallons.

Are there facilities associated with this area? Yes, the grounds surrounding the branch are mowed; and there are picnic tables, grills, benches, trash receptacles, and an new disabled-accessible latrine.

Will the recreation area be crowded? No, there is a good chance that you will have the spring branch to yourself, especially if you fish during the weekday mornings or late afternoons. It is rare to find more than a couple of other anglers fishing at any given time.

What else might I expect if I visit Stone Mill this winter? In addition to clean and peaceful surroundings nestled between oak-clad hillsides and the Big Piney River; you might see a host of wildlife including, beaver, muskrats, herons, ducks, turkeys, and bald eagles.

Who manages this program? This is a cooperative management effort between Fort Leonard Wood's Natural Resource Branch, who manages the area day to day, the Missouri Department of Conservation who provides the trout and enforces the regulations, and the U.S. Forest Service who owns the recreation area.



For more information contact: Mark Zurbrick, Fisheries Biologist with the Fort Leonard Wood Natural Resource Branch in Building 2112 on East 2nd Street or call on post 6-7604, or off post at 573-596-0131 ext 6-6704.